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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 20 August 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address Your Excellency, upon instructions from the Government of Uzbekistan, which is a participating State in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), to request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum concerning the request is attached to the present letter (see annex).

(Signed) Saidmouhtar SAIDKASIMOV
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Uzbekistan

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

With a view to meeting the new challenges in the CSCE area, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) is studying, on a priority basis, ways and means to strengthen its functions to maintain international peace and security within its area of competence.

At the Helsinki Summit in July 1992, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe declared its understanding that CSCE is a regional arrangement in the sense of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. It provides an important link between European and global security.

Taking note of the matters of which the Security Council has been seized in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Stockholm Council Meeting of CSCE in December 1992 reviewed experiences with the instruments for early warning, conflict prevention and crisis management, in particular in the field of preventive diplomacy (including fact-finding and rapporteur missions) and, where appropriate, peace-keeping. It was noted that, in association with efforts to bring about political solutions, stability could be enhanced by armed contingents for peace-keeping purposes. The Helsinki Summit adopted provisions concerning CSCE peace-keeping.

Various types of CSCE missions have accordingly been initiated with a view to conflict prevention and conflict resolution. At present, the number is seven in areas of former Yugoslavia and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The mandates vary considerably: from focusing on early warning to crisis management in a strict sense. Practical experience from these endeavours has thus been added to the discussion of the CSCE role and capacity in the area of preventive diplomacy and peace-keeping.

The human dimension mechanisms of CSCE are increasingly being used as a major foundation for CSCE's efforts at early warning and long-term conflict prevention. Their further elaboration and utilization will considerably strengthen CSCE's ability to address root causes of tension and to refine its mechanisms for early warning in potentially dangerous situations. Steps have been taken to integrate the human dimension more fully into the political consultations and concerted actions of the participating States. Ways are being considered of using the 1993 Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues to investigate possible new means of utilizing human rights mechanisms for these purposes and to improve monitoring of compliance with CSCE commitments.

At the Stockholm Council Meeting it was decided that the relationship between the United Nations and CSCE should be further developed. The Committee of Senior Officials was requested to examine the practical implications of the understanding, expressed in the Helsinki Summit Document, that CSCE is a regional arrangement in the sense of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

Bearing in mind the necessity to keep forms of interaction between CSCE and the United Nations flexible and adequate to each specific situation, the

Chairman-in-Office of the Committee of Senior Officials was asked to keep close contacts with the United Nations in order to promote regular exchanges of information, cooperation and coordination and avoid duplication of efforts. The Chairman-in-Office of the Committee of Senior Officials was also asked to establish regular contacts with the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure that the United Nations and CSCE participating States are kept informed of relevant activities, especially in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, as well as the promotion of democratic values and human rights.

At the Stockholm Council Meeting it was also decided that a representative of the Secretary-General would be invited to the meetings of the Council and the Committee of Senior Officials of CSCE.

The spirit of these decisions has been reflected in an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE Council in May this year, on an agreement on a framework for cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Secretariat and CSCE.

Presently CSCE has 52 participating States: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has observer status. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia-Montenegro) is suspended from participation in CSCE meetings.

APPENDIX

Draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Noting the desire of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to intensify its cooperation with the United Nations,

1. Decides to invite the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.